(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for Pakistan's cancelling the order of Sugar;

(d) whether the Trading Corporation of Pakistan has used the State Trading Corporation for damages caused to Pakistan by entering into the deal with;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Spoiled Wheat

451. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether lakhs of tonne of wheat has been spoiled and is not fit for human consumption due to the official negligence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the officials responsible for this negligence and the action being taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no spoiled wheat with Food Corporation of India. However, the stocks of foodgrains which are affected due to natural calamities like cyclone, flood, unprecedented rains etc. during storage in open due to paucity of space, are salvaged and the affected stocks which cannot be retrieved as sound grains, are categorised as damaged grains unfit for human consumption and disposed of through other channels as per procedure.

The stocks of foodgrains are stored by scientific methods in the FCI godowns and subjected to thorough examination by trained Quality Control Officers on fortnightly basis regularly. Periodical dis-infestation treatments is imparted to protect the stored grain from spoilage during storage because of various factors like moisture, insects rodents, micro organisum etc.

[English]

Endemic Species

452. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimation of regional distribution of endemic species has been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the Himalayas and Western Ghats;

(c) whether there is any change in their figures in the last decade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) Survey of flora and fauna of India is continously being done by Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India. 65% of the total area of the country has been surveyed so far. As per the publications of the Botanical survey of India in 1990 andemic plant species in Himalayas and Western Ghats are 3003 and 1500 respectively. The figures of endemic species of birds and mammals for Himalayas and Western Ghats are 46 and 26 respectively as per the publications of Zoological Survey of India in 1994.

Ban on Lottery

453. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to ban lottery in the entire country;

(b) if so, the states where lottery has been banned so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to ban the same in the remaining States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Allotment of Land to Israel Government

454. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allot 25 acres of prime land inside the Indian Agricultural Institute (IARI) campus to the Government of Israel for the purpose of setting up a demonstration unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists of the Institution has protested against the Government's decision to allot the land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. IARI has not alloted any land to the Government of Israel. However, it has earmarked a site measuring 17 acres of land for a joint Indo-Israeli project on technology assessment and transfer with technical and equipment support from Israel Government for a period of three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Settlement of Displaced persons from POK

455. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for permanent settlement of the families displaced from the Pak Occupied Kashmir;

(b) whether the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has recommended compensation of Rs. 25000/- to each family for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the number of families identified alongwith the number of families granted compensation so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) the process of permanent settlement of the families displaced from Pak Occupied Kashmir has since been completed. Although these families have not been paid compensation in lieu of the properties left behind by them in Pak Occupied Kashmir, ex-gratia payment at the following scales were given to all the 31732 families who applied for assistance.

(i)	Urban families	–	Rs. 3500 per family
(ii)	Agricultural families	–	Rs. 1,000 plus (2-3 acres of irrigated or 4-6 acres of un-irrigated land) depending upon the size of each family.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have not found it feasible to accede to this recommendation of the State Government as it would have triggered off further demands from other sections of similarly placed people.

Loss of Crop Production

456. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of the wheat dropped by about 3 million tonnes this year and the production of pulses has remained stagnant for a few years;

(b) if so, whether the country is losing Rs. 9,400 crores every year on account of this;

(c) if so, whether 5.76 million hectares suffering either from problems of water logging and or from salinity/ alkalinity;

(d) if so, whether the annual crop production loss is estimated at the rate of about Rs. 10,000 per hectare; and

(e) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for reclamation of the land ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production of wheat during 1995-96 was 62.62 million tonnes i.e. lower by about 3.15 million tonnes over the production of 65.77 million tonnes achieved in 1994-95. On the other hand the production of pulses has been hovering in the range of around 12-14 million tonnes since 1990-91.

(b) No such assessment could possibly be made on account of fall in wheat production in a single year i.e. 1995-96 and stagnant production of pulses for the last few years.

(c) As per National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) report, 1976, the country has got 3.58 million hectares of alkali soil and 5.5 million hectares saline including coastal saline and sandy soils.

(d) The annual crop production loss on account of problems of water logging and salinity/alkalinity is not assessed.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils is in operation from 7th Five Year Plan. So far, an area of 4.32 lakh hectares has been reclaimed with a cost of Rs. 59.67 crores. Besides, an area of 28000 hectares has been reclaimed at a cost of Rs. 58.94 crores under EEC assisted and World Bank assisted project for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in U.P. and Bihar.

During 9th Plan, the scheme will continue and besides 3 new schemes have been proposed as under viz.

- Reclamation of Saline including Coastal Saline and Sandy areas.
- Protection and development of waterlogged areas for increasing productivity.
- Amelioration of acid soils.

Foodgrains and Sugar to Jammu and Kashmir

457. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains and sugar despatched to the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the quantity of various types of foodgrains/sugar lost in transit and the value thereof;

(b) the steps taken for the recovery of the lost foodgrains/sugar and also the manner in which the